



Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture

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HIGHLIGHTS

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May 1 Winter Wheat Production and Hay Stocks

Based on May 1 conditions, Montana winter wheat producers expect a yield of 39 bushels per acre, unchanged from last year's final yield. Total production is expected to be 93.6 million bushels, down 1 percent from last year's 94.4 million bushels. In the fall of 2008, Montana producers seeded 2.5 million acres of winter wheat, down 100,000 acres from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 2.4 million acres, 20,000 acres below 2008.

As of May 10, Montana's winter wheat crop was rated better than a year ago with 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 15 percent excellent compared with 10 percent very poor, 19 percent poor, 39 percent fair, 30 percent good, and 2 percent excellent a year ago. More moisture and warmer weather is needed

this spring for crop development as 2 percent of the acreage has reached the boot stage compared with 3 percent last year and 6 percent for the five-year average.

On May 1, Montana hay producers held an estimated 590,000 tons of hay on hand, 42 percent below stocks on hand a year ago. Hay production for 2008 was 4.08 million tons, 20 percent lower than 2007 production. Disappearance from December 1, 2008 to May 1, 2009 totaled 3.24 million tons, down 8 percent from the same period a year earlier.

U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.50 billion bushels, down 20 percent from 2008. Expected area for harvest as grain or seed totals 34.0 million acres, down 14 percent from last year. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 44.2 bushels per acre, down 3.0 bushels from the previous year.

Hard Red production is down 16 percent from a year ago to 871 million bushels. Soft Red production is down 31 percent and totals 422 million bushels. White production totals 208 million bushels, down 5 percent from a year ago. Of the White production total, 20.8 million bushels are Hard White and 188 million bushels are Soft White.

All hay stored on farms May 1, 2009 totaled 22.1 million tons, up 2 percent

from a year ago. Disappearance from December 1, 2008-May 1, 2009 totaled 81.6 million tons, compared with 82.5 million tons for the same period a year ago.

Hay stocks decreased from last year across most of the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain States. Texas and Oklahoma had the largest decreases due in part to lower hay production in 2008. In addition, dry weather last fall and winter resulted in poor pasture conditions which increased supplemental hay feeding. Hay stocks in North Dakota and Montana were down 44 and 42 percent, respectively, due to a combination of lower production and spring snow storms that prolonged the hay feeding season.

Meanwhile, in the eastern United States, higher production, milder winter weather, increased precipitation, and lower cattle inventories contributed to higher hay stocks on May 1. The largest increase was shown in Tennessee where stocks were 157 percent higher than a year earlier. Other notable increases were shown in Alabama and Kentucky, both up 150 percent from May 2008. Stocks in the western United States were also higher than a year ago as lower demand was noted in California, Oregon, and Washington.

Winter Wheat Acreage, Yield, and Production by Selected States and U.S., 2008 and Forecast May 1, 2009

State	Harvested		Yield		Production	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
CO	1,900	2,300	30.0	32.0	57,000	73,600
ID	800	700	75.0	82.0	60,000	57,400
KS	8,900	8,500	40.0	40.0	356,000	340,000
KY	460	400	71.0	72.0	32,660	28,800
MT	2,420	2,400	39.0	39.0	94,380	93,600
NE	1,670	1,600	44.0	42.0	73,480	67,200
OK	4,500	3,500	37.0	23.0	166,500	80,500
OR	775	720	58.0	53.0	44,950	38,160
SD	1,890	1,550	55.0	49.0	103,950	75,950
TX	3,300	2,400	30.0	27.0	99,000	64,800
US	39,614	33,995	47.2	44.2	1,867,903	1,502,074

County and District	All Cattle and Calves				Beef Cows and Heifers That Have Calved			
	2007	2008	2009	Rank	2007	2008	2009	Rank
Deer Lodge	7,500	8,200	7,100	53	5,600	5,000	4,900	53
Flathead	9,400	9,600	8,800	51	5,900	6,100	5,200	52
Granite	21,600	24,500	27,500	41	15,500	15,100	18,000	38
Lake	45,100	50,200	50,000	21	29,000	27,000	31,000	17
Lincoln	2,700	--	2,300	55	1,600	--	1,500	55
Mineral	800	--	600	56	400	--	400	56
Missoula	8,600	7,900	7,700	52	5,900	4,900	5,600	51
Powell	44,100	45,500	42,000	30	28,400	32,000	28,000	22
Ravalli	30,400	34,000	33,600	34	17,700	15,400	17,500	41
Sanders	17,800	20,500	20,400	47	12,000	10,400	13,900	46
Other	--	2,600	--	--	--	2,100	--	--
NORTHWEST	188,000	203,000	200,000	--	122,000	118,000	126,000	--
Blaine	69,400	76,000	74,500	11	43,200	52,700	46,500	7
Chouteau	40,000	36,600	42,000	30	22,000	28,000	26,400	27
Glacier	41,700	47,300	48,000	25	24,600	39,000	28,500	21
Hill	27,900	31,500	30,400	37	18,800	17,700	19,400	36
Liberty	13,500	14,100	13,000	50	8,300	8,800	7,600	50
Phillips	80,000	85,200	91,500	3	45,400	56,900	59,300	3
Pondera	31,300	34,700	30,300	38	17,200	18,800	21,000	32
Teton	53,400	56,100	49,000	22	25,600	32,900	26,000	28
Toole	16,800	19,500	22,300	46	10,900	10,200	13,300	47
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTH CENTRAL	374,000	401,000	401,000	--	216,000	265,000	248,000	--
Daniels	15,700	24,100	28,000	39	10,800	13,700	21,000	32
Dawson	42,200	45,900	43,000	28	25,900	31,100	26,500	26
Garfield	54,600	64,300	73,500	12	40,900	45,200	44,500	9
McCone	32,800	31,600	32,500	35	18,800	24,800	21,000	32
Richland	61,200	56,800	62,000	15	26,100	33,900	27,000	24
Roosevelt	36,100	42,000	43,000	28	20,700	24,500	30,000	18
Sheridan	28,500	30,800	26,500	42	18,400	16,100	18,000	38
Valley	78,900	65,500	60,500	17	48,400	43,700	34,000	14
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	350,000	361,000	369,000	--	210,000	233,000	222,000	--
Broadwater	15,600	18,400	18,500	49	10,700	12,800	11,000	48
Cascade	81,100	88,200	86,500	7	45,100	40,900	49,000	6
Fergus	101,900	111,100	108,500	2	66,100	77,300	72,000	1
Golden Valley	15,700	20,000	20,000	48	9,300	9,800	11,000	48
Judith Basin	59,500	65,400	77,000	9	29,600	33,600	42,500	11
Lewis & Clark	39,400	47,700	44,500	27	23,100	28,100	25,500	29
Meagher	48,500	47,800	49,000	22	25,300	27,400	27,000	24
Musselshell	43,100	53,800	59,000	18	24,600	22,500	33,000	16
Petroleum	21,000	24,700	26,000	43	13,000	16,800	16,300	42
Wheatland	30,200	34,900	36,000	33	18,200	21,800	23,700	30
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	456,000	512,000	525,000	--	265,			

-- Counties with no head or counties that are combined into “other” counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

March 2009 Ag Prices Received

Montana crop prices for the full month of March 2009 were mostly lower when compared with the previous month. The March to February price comparisons are: winter wheat was \$5.57 per bushel, down \$0.33, spring wheat decreased \$0.22 to \$6.97 per bushel, and durum wheat dropped \$0.90 to \$8.22 per bushel. Feed barley prices decreased \$0.10 to \$2.62 per bushel, but malt barley increased \$0.08 to \$6.01 per bushel. Oats were \$3.14 per bushel.

The mid-April price for alfalfa hay was down \$4.00 from March to \$121.00 per ton, but other hay increased \$21.00 to \$115.00 per ton. Mid-April grain prices were down when compared with March 2009. Winter wheat was \$5.44 per bushel, spring wheat was \$6.50 per bushel, durum wheat was \$8.07 per bushel, feed barley was \$2.48 per bushel, and malt barley was \$4.99 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of March 2009 were mixed when compared with February 2009. March to February price comparisons are: steers and heifers increased \$1.90 to \$94.60 per cwt, cows

increased \$2.10 per cwt to \$43.50, beef cattle decreased \$2.20 to \$77.70 per cwt, calves were down \$1.00 to \$107.00 per cwt, sheep were up \$1.00 to \$28.70 per cwt, lambs dropped \$6.00 to \$106.00 per cwt, and all milk decreased \$5.60 to \$11.30 per cwt. The mid-April 2009 prices were mostly higher, as follows: steers and heifers, \$97.60 per cwt, cows, \$45.20 per cwt, beef cattle, \$77.20 per cwt, calves, \$109.00 per cwt, and all milk, \$11.20 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for March 2009 and changes from February were: winter wheat was \$5.26 per bushel, unchanged, spring wheat was \$6.50 per bushel, down \$0.12, durum wheat was \$7.63 per bushel, up \$0.10, all barley was \$4.88 per bushel, down \$0.06, steers and heifers were \$84.00 per cwt, up \$0.20, cows were \$44.60 per cwt, up \$0.70, beef cattle were \$79.00 per cwt, up \$0.20, calves were \$107.00 per cwt, up \$2.00, sheep were \$33.10 per cwt, up \$1.20, lambs were \$100.00 per cwt, unchanged, and all milk was \$11.80 per cwt, up \$0.20.

The U.S. mid-April prices were: winter wheat was \$5.16 per bushel, spring

wheat was \$6.27 per bushel, durum wheat was \$7.87 per bushel, all wheat was \$5.69 per bushel, malt barley was \$5.14 per bushel, feed barley was \$2.72 per bushel, steers and heifers were \$87.70 per cwt, cows were \$47.50 per cwt, beef cattle were \$82.80 per cwt, calves were \$109.00 per cwt, and all milk was \$12.00 per cwt.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April, at 131 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 5 points (4.0 percent) from March. The Crop Index is up 9 points (6.2 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 3 points (2.8 percent). Producers received higher prices for lettuce, cattle, soybeans, and onions and lower prices for strawberries, snap beans, apples, and cauliflower. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of strawberries, sweet corn, cattle, and lettuce offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, wheat, and hogs.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	March 2008	April 2008	March 2009	April 2009
Prices Received	146	146	126	131
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	174	179	178	178
Ratio 2/	84	82	71	74
1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.				

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	U N I T	Monthly Average				Change from Previous		Mid-Month Avg	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Mar 2008	Feb 2009	Mar 2009	Mar 2009	Feb 2009	Mar 2008	15-Apr-09	15-Apr-09
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu	8.26	5.90	5.57	5.26	-0.33	-2.69	5.44	5.16
Durum Wheat	Bu	14.40	9.12	8.22	7.63	-0.90	-6.18	8.07	7.87
Spring Wheat	Bu	8.84	7.19	6.97	6.50	-0.22	-1.87	6.50	6.27
All Wheat	Bu	8.73	6.62	6.20	5.70	-0.42	-2.53	5.95	5.69
All Barley	Bu	4.23	5.56	5.39	4.88	-0.17	+1.16	4.54	4.78
Feed Barley	Bu	4.49	2.72	2.62	2.73	-0.10	-1.87	2.48	2.72
Malt Barley	Bu	4.15	5.93	6.01	5.40	+0.08	+1.86	4.99	5.14
Oats	Bu	na	na	3.14	2.77	0.0	0.0	na	2.16
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	86.00	111.00	125.00	137.00	+14.00	+39.00	121.00	133.00
All Other Hay	Ton	80.00	103.00	94.00	109.00	-9.00	+14.00	115.00	117.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	85.00	110.00	123.00	129.00	+13.00	+38.00	120.00	129.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	96.80	92.70	94.60	84.00	+1.90	-2.20	97.60	87.70
Cows	Cwt	51.20	41.40	43.50	44.60	+2.10	-7.70	45.20	47.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	91.30	79.90	77.70	79.00	-2.20	-13.60	77.20	82.80
Calves	Cwt	120.00	108.00	107.00	107.00	-1.00	-13.00	109.00	109.00
Sheep	Cwt	19.50	27.70	28.70	33.10	+1.00	+9.20	na	na
Lambs	Cwt	99.20	112.00	106.00	100.00	-6.00	+6.80	na	na
All Milk	Cwt	19.40	16.90	11.30	11.80	-5.60	-8.10	11.20	12.00

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. na-not available.

April Milk Production up slightly

Milk production in the 23 major States during April totaled 14.9 billion pounds, up slightly from April 2008. March revised production at 15.2 billion pounds, was up 0.1 percent from March 2008. The March revision represented an increase of 47 million pounds or 0.3 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,758 pounds for April, 1 pound above April 2008.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.48 million head, 3,000 head less than April 2008, and 2,000 head less than March 2009.

Montana Farmers To Be Selected for Resource Management Practices Surveys

Just about every Federal policy and program that affects U.S. farmers and farm families is based on information from the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS). This survey is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) primary source of information on the production practices, resource use, and economic well-being of America's farm households.

Montana farmers will be asked to cooperate by answering a short telephone interview called the Integrated Screening Survey or ISS. The results of this initial interview will be used to select a sample of growers who will be asked to report information on resource management practices and

chemical usage for wheat grown in Montana.

The Integrated Screening Survey is voluntary, but your cooperation is needed to ensure that all producers are represented for this state and national study. Interviews for the Integrated Screening Survey will start mid-May and continue through mid-July 2009. As always, your response to this interview is confidential. We thank you for your help and cooperation.

For a copy of the finished report or to obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the Montana Field Office website at www.nass.usda.gov/mt or call 1-800-835-2612.

Planting Underway, USDA Surveys Crop Acreage And Stocks

How many acres of wheat have farmers planted this season? How have bio-fuels influenced the balance of crop acres? Has the total area planted to principal crops declined?

The June Agricultural Survey, conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), will help answer these and other critical questions about the production and supply of major commodities for 2009.

"The June Agricultural Survey, also known as the Crops/Stocks Survey, is one of the most important surveys conducted by NASS," explained Steve Anderson, director of the NASS Montana Field Office. "This survey will provide the first clear indication of the production and supply of major crops in 2009."

Earlier in the season NASS surveyed farmers' planting intentions and issued the Prospective Plantings report. This report indicated that producers in Montana expected to plant less wheat and dry beans in 2009, but more barley, oats, corn, sugar beets, lentils, and flaxseed.

"With planting underway, now is the time to find out what is actually going into the ground. This information will benefit farmers and the entire agricultural industry by providing timely and accurate data to help them make critical business decisions," said Anderson.

Beginning in early June, NASS will contact 1,700 Montana producers by mail or telephone and ask them to provide information on what commodities they planted, how much they planted, and how much they have stored on their farms. The information will be compiled and analyzed and then published in a series of highly anticipated USDA reports, including the annual Acreage report and quarterly Grain Stocks report, both to be released on June 30.

As is the case with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is protected by law. NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses, ensuring that no individual producer or operation can be identified. All reports are available on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov/mt. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Montana Field Office at 1-800-835-2612.

COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks	Meat Animal PDI
Cattle on Feed	Milk PDI
Livestock Slaughter	Poultry PDI
Egg Production	

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